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10 June 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Director's Meeting with Senator J. W. Fulbright, 9 June 1969

1. On 9 June the Director called on Senator J. W. Fulbright to explain the difficulties of attempting to answer in writing the Senator's questions contained in his letter to the Director of 2 June. The Senator seemed to accept this, but explained to the Director his difficulties in trying to keep the Administration and the Defense Department "honest" in connection with the Safeguard debate and the various claims and leaks as to the Soviet SS-9, etc.
2. The Senator called attention to a number of newspaper clippings to illustrate his point that a great mass of classified information was already being made public by the Defense Department. Conspicuously not included among these clippings however was the recent New York Times story on the subject by John Finney.
3. The Senator then gave the Director a draft speech entitled "Prejudice, Intelligence and the ABM" (copy attached) with the request that it be reviewed from a security standpoint.
4. This morning the Director called a meeting of R. Jack Smith, Carl Duckett and me to discuss the general problem raised by Senator Fulbright's request. Mr. Duckett suggested the possibility of getting Fulbright and Russell together in an effort to hammer out an agreed version of the facts which might be properly made public. The Director spoke of the possibility of taking the problem to the White House. Smith and I opposed this on the grounds that the White House was a party in interest and that the Agency's problem was to preserve its independence, integrity and credibility by not getting involved with any of the contending factions, but sticking strictly to its responsibilities for preserving intelligence sources and methods and discouraging the selective or escalating leakage of intelligence information and estimates.

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5. It was concluded that as a first step the Director would call on Senator Russell and review the problem with him.

6. At the Director's request we have reviewed the draft speech given him by Senator Fulbright and find it is virtually identical to an earlier version which Carl Marcy asked us to clear.

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Legislative Counsel

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